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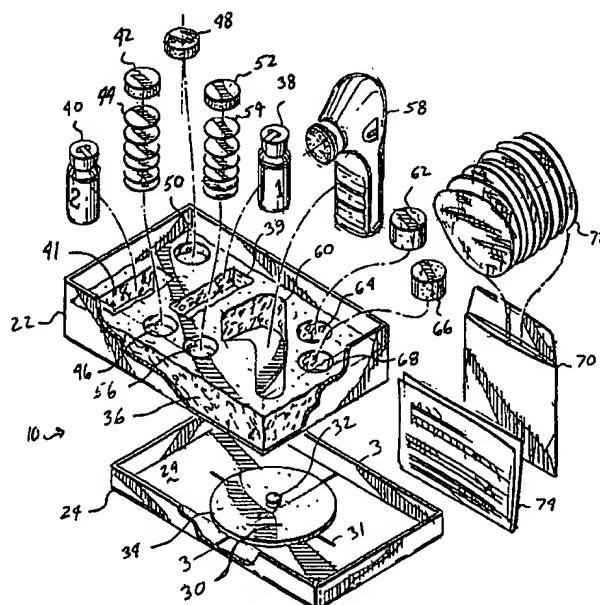
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(54) Title: DISC REPAIR SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A disc repair system embodies by a consumer kit (10), which is provided for the purpose of consumer-repairing of scratches on optically-read discs (30) (e.g., digitally recorded discs, known commonly, as "CD" discs or "DVD" discs, containing audio or video or other formats of data information), such that an optical reader, which uses a laser to read digital information stored on a compact disc, can read the digital information without the optical distortion caused by a scratch. The consumer kit (in a special box package) contains a hand-held rotator (58) which is preferably used in combination with abrading compounds (38), abrasive discs (42), and wiping cloths (72) to recondition the disc surface.

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DISC REPAIR SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

This invention relates to a system for repairing scratches on optically-read discs, e.g., compact discs (often called "CD's"). More specifically, this invention provides a more efficient system for refurbishing the compact disc surface such that an optical reader, which uses a laser to read digital information stored on a compact disc, can read the digital information without the optical distortion caused by a scratch.

Typically, digitally recorded discs, known commonly as "CD" discs or "DVD" discs, contain audio or video information. The digital information is currently interpolated or read by an optical reader that uses one or more laser beams or other light amplified beams to read the digital information. The current state of the art of manufacture of these CD discs is such that they are comprised of a round disc composed of a synthetic material (e.g., plastic), with a typical diameter of approximately 4-3/4 inches and an approximate thickness of 1/16 inches. The disc has a center aperture typically approximately 5/8 inches in diameter for receiving a centering spindle in a playback apparatus. Digitally recorded material typically extends on one side of the disc, from about 3/4 inches from the center aperture outward to within about 1/4 inch of the peripheral end of the disc. A bearing area typically extends on the other side, in approximately the same dimensions, for bearing on a playback apparatus which spins the disc at high speed. The digital information is contained on a relatively thin layer of metallic material covered by a protective layer of the synthetic material, usually a plastic. A laser within the playback apparatus reads the digital information through the plastic layer. Recently (for example), optically-read discs include multi-layer laminated discs; and it is pointed out that describing discs generally herein is not intended to limit the technology of optically-read discs which is

addressed herein. If the plastic layer becomes scratched or stained, the laser light will distort and not accurately read the digital information.

Although such scratched discs may be commercially repaired in quantity, as from a rental facility, the individual consumer-user of such a disc has no inexpensive availability to such commercial repair services and will often consider the disc practically unrepairable and purchase a new one. Also, when attempting to trade an old disc for a new one, such individual consumer will often find that a scratched disc may not be traded in, and the used value is compromised. Thus, there exists a need for a more efficient solution to the problems of a consumer who owns scratched discs.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

A primary object and feature of the present invention is to fulfill the above-mentioned need by the provision of a disc repair system embodied by a consumer kit, which is provided for the purpose of user-repairing of the scratches, such that the digital information may be read by an optical reader playback apparatus. In addition, it is a primary object of this invention to provide such other advantages as will become apparent with reference to the following invention descriptions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, this invention provides a consumer kit for reconditioning a scratched operating surface of an optically-read disc, comprising, in combination: a holding means for holding the disc in a substantially stationary position with the operating surface exposed and facing upwardly; an abrader means for abrading the operating surface; a hand-held power tool means for powered rubbing of such abrader means on the operating surface; and a cleaning means for cleaning the operating surface. It also provides such a system further comprising a container means for containing such consumer kit within a box having a lid. Further, it provides such a

system wherein such lid comprises such holding means. Also, it provides such a system wherein such box comprises spacer means for orderly arranging of elements of such consumer kit, and it provides such a system wherein such abrader means comprises a series of abrasives for abrading the operating surface in a user-controlled manner.

Moreover, it provides such a system wherein such hand-held power tool means comprises a powered rotary spindle; and such a system further comprises a set of polishing means removably attachable to such rotary spindle for polishing the operating surface. Still further, it provides such a system wherein abrader means further comprises such set of polishing means.

According to another preferred embodiment of the present invention, this invention provides a consumer kit for reconditioning a scratched operating surface of an optically-read disc, comprising, in combination: an optically-read-disc holder structured and arranged to hold the optically-read disc in a substantially stationary position with the operating surface exposed and facing upwardly; a set of abrasive products structured and arranged to abrade the operating surface in an ordered manner when rotatably rubbed on the operating surface; a hand-held rotary power tool having a powered rotary spindle structured and arranged to removably hold one such spindle-rotatable abrasive product; and a set of wipes each structured and arranged to clean the operating surface.

Additionally, it provides such a system further comprising a box having a lid, structured and arranged to contain such consumer kit; and such a system wherein such lid comprises such optically-read-disc holder; and further, wherein such box comprises a spacer structured and arranged to assist orderly arranging of elements of such consumer kit. It also provides such a system wherein such set of abrasive products comprises: a set of polishing pads each structured and arranged to be removably attached to such rotary spindle; and a polishing compound. And, it provides such a system

wherein such set of abrasive products further comprises: a buffing pad structured and arranged to be removably attached to such rotary spindle; and a buffing compound.

Even further, it provides such a system wherein such set of abrasive products further comprises: a 15 grit micron abrading disc; a 9 grit micron abrading disc; a 3 grit micron abrading disc; a polishing compound less than 9 grit; and a cleaning disc having a lesser grit than the polishing compound. Still further, it provides such a system wherein such set of abrasive products further comprises a series of diamond grit abrasives ranging from about 60 micron diamond grit to about 6 micron diamond grit.

According to yet another preferred embodiment of the present invention, this invention provides a method for using consumer-kit elements to recondition a scratched operating surface of an optically-read disc, comprising, in combination, the steps of: placing the optically-read disc in a stationary position on a portable holder provided by the consumer kit, with the scratched operating surface facing upwardly; providing, by such consumer kit, a set of abrasion products structured and arranged to remove material from such scratched operating surface when rubbed on such scratched operating surface; using a hand-held rotating power tool, having a rotary spindle, provided by such consumer kit, rubbing in a polishing order a selection of such abrasion products on such scratched operating surface; and using cleaning elements provided by such consumer kit, cleaning such scratched operating surface. It also provides such a system wherein such set of abrasive products comprises a set of polishing pads each structured and arranged to be removably attached to such rotary spindle; and a polishing compound.

Even further, it provides such a system wherein such set of abrasive products further comprises: a buffing pad structured and arranged to be removably attached to such rotary spindle; and a buffing compound. Also, it provides such a system wherein such set of abrasive products further

comprises: a 15 grit micron abrading disc; a 9 grit micron abrading disc; a 3 grit micron abrading disc; a polishing compound less than 9 grit; and a cleaning disc having a lesser grit than the polishing compound. And, it provides such a system wherein such set of abrasive products further comprises a series of diamond grit abrasives ranging from about 60 micron diamond grit to about 6 micron diamond grit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the container of a preferred embodiment of the disc repair system kit.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the internal parts of the disc repair system kit.

FIG. 3 is a cross-section view through the compact disc and holder of section 3-3 of FIG. 2 of the disc repair system kit.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the hand-held disc rotator.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the application of another embodiment of the polishing pad to a polishing disc.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a polishing pad removably attached to a polishing disc.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a buffing pad.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a polishing pad and polishing disc shown attached to a disc rotator.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view illustrating application of a polishing compound to the polishing disc.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view illustrating the application of the polishing disc upon the compact disc.

FIG. 11 is a perspective view further illustrating the application of the polishing disc upon the compact disc.

FIG. 12 is a perspective view illustrating application of a buffing compound to the buffing pad.

FIG. 13 is a perspective view illustrating the application of the buffing pad upon the compact disc.

FIG. 14 is a perspective view further illustrating the application of the buffing pad upon the compact disc.

FIG. 15 is a perspective view illustrating the application of the final wiping cloth upon the compact disc.

FIG. 16 is a perspective view illustrating another preferred embodiment of a compact disc holder.

FIG. 17 is a cross-section view through the compact disc holder of section 16-16 of FIG. 16.

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of an applicator for a diamond abrasive polishing compound.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

Illustrated in FIG. 1 is an overall view of the container 20 of a preferred embodiment of the disc repair system kit 10. The container 20 is preferably comprised of a body 22 and a cover 24. Preferably, body 22 (embodying herein a container means for containing such consumer kit within a box having a lid; and a box, having a lid, structured and arranged to contain such consumer kit) is best embodied by a rectangular box approximately sized at 6 inches wide X 10-1/2 inches long X 2-1/2 inches high. The body 22 and cover 24 are preferably metal, but may be manufactured in any suitable material (e.g. plastic). Any suitably sized or shaped body that would contain all of the necessary parts, as will be described further herein, would also (non-preferably) suffice. The body 22 has a cover 24 which is made such that it fits snugly over the body 22. Preferably, cover 24 has a rubber anti-slip disc 26 on or near each of the corners of the top 28. The purpose of these discs is to assist in keeping cover 24 from slipping when it is turned on its top 28, and the inside portion 29 (shown further in FIG. 2) is used to hold a disc 30 (i.e., a compact disc or CD, a digital video disc or DVD, or yet some other optically-read disc which is manufactured in a similar manner).

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the parts of the disc repair system kit 10. Referring first to cover 24, cover 24 is illustrated with the inside portion 29 in the up position and the top 28 preferably resting on a flat surface (not shown). Located in the center

of the top **24** is a rubber disc holder **34** (e.g., a custom cut piece of open-cell rubber approximately 1/8 inch thick, Model No. O-C SBR SNG #3120, available from Rubberite Corp., 301 East Goetz Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92707, placed on a custom cut piece of 1/8 inch steel plate). Preferably, rubber disc holder **34** is about 4-3/4 inches in diameter. Preferably, rubber disc holder **34** is sized such that it is the same size as a standard compact disc. The compact disc is preferably set on the rubber disc holder **34** with the operating surface exposed and facing upwardly (this arrangement embodying herein a holding means for holding the disc in a substantially stationary position with the operating surface exposed and facing upwardly; and an optically-read-disc holder structured and arranged to hold the optically-read disc in a substantially stationary position with the operating surface exposed and facing upwardly). Preferably, in the center of rubber disc holder **34** is a round spindle **32** approximately 9/16 of an inch in diameter. The spindle **32** has a smaller portion **33** (see FIG. 1) which is inserted into the cover **24**. The smaller portion **33** is preferably about 1/4 inch in diameter and is adhesively inserted in a same sized 1/4 inch hole in the center of cover **24** (see FIG. 1). Both the spindle **32** and rubber disc holder **34** are preferably permanently adhered to the cover **24** (this arrangement embodying herein wherein such lid comprises such optically-read-disc holder; and wherein such lid comprises such holding means). The preferred adhesive is double-sided adhesive tape; however, there may be other suitable adhesives that would suffice (e.g., clear acrylic adhesive). Box body **22** contains a foam insert **36** (e.g., a closed cell rigid foam, such as that available from Foamex, 4011 West Clarendon, Phoenix, AZ 85019) which is structured and arranged to removably hold the components (later described herein) of the disc repair system kit **10** (this arrangement embodying herein wherein such box comprises spacer means for orderly arranging of elements of such consumer kit; and wherein such box comprises a spacer structured and arranged to assist orderly

arranging of elements of such consumer kit). Those skilled in the art will readily recognize that such a holding insert may be easily made from a variety of other materials (e.g. non-foamed plastic), or formed in many other ways.

The additional components of the disc repair system kit 10 are now described herein. A container 38 of polishing compound (e.g., blend #19-polish A from Unichem Corp., 110 E Main Ave., Casa Grande, AZ 85230) preferably fits into space 39. Those skilled in the art will readily recognize that such polishing compounds may be easily obtained or custom blended. A container 40 of buffing compound (e.g., buffing compound #1 from Springer Ind., 930 W. Birchwood, Mesa, AZ) preferably fits into space 41. Those skilled in the art will readily recognize that such buffing compounds may be easily obtained or custom blended. A polishing pad 42 (e.g., medium density closed cell foam, such as that available from Foamex, 4011 West Clarendon, Phoenix, AZ 85019) and polishing discs 44 (e.g., 15 grit micron wet/dry aluminum oxide abrasive paper from 3M corporation, and, preferably also including 9 grit micron and 3 grit micron such paper discs, as mentioned herein, with appropriate spaces) preferably fit into space 46. A foam pad with a linen backer (included as an example used for diamond abrasives; otherwise, an extra polishing pad 42 is inserted here) preferably fits into space 50. A polishing pad 52 and polishing discs 54 (e.g., 9 micron wet/dry aluminum oxide abrasive paper from 3M corporation) preferably fit into space 56. (The above polishing pads, discs and polishing compounds embody herein wherein abrader means further comprises such set of polishing means; and an abrader means for abrading the operating surface; and also a set of abrasion products structured and arranged to remove material from such scratched operating surface when rubbed on such scratched operating surface; and further embody herein wherein such abrader means comprises a series of abrasives for abrading the operating surface in a user-controlled manner; and even further embody herein a set of abrasive products structured and arranged to abrade the operating

surface in an ordered manner when rotatably rubbed on the operating surface). A hand-held disc rotator **58**, preferably with an adjustable RPM of 600-1200, preferably fits into space **60**. Those with ordinary skill in the art of small electrically-operated disc rotators will, without undue experimentation, be able to design and build such a rotator having proper torque and other characteristics for disc polishing. A buffing pad **62** (e.g., medium density closed cell foam, such as that available from Foamex, 4011 West Clarendon, Phoenix, AZ 85019, with attached 40 pound fabric linen available from a fabric store, such as H&R sales, 1118 N 35th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009) preferably fits into space **64**. A buffing pad **66** (same material as buffing pad **62**) preferably fits into space **68**. A package **70** of disc wiping cloths **72** (e.g., hydro-entangled 1.6 oz polyester/rayon blend fabric) is included. This arrangement embodies herein a set of wipes each structured and arranged to clean the operating surface. A set of instructions **74** is also included. These above-described items will be further herein explained below.

Illustrated in FIG. 3 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view (relative dimensions may be inaccurate) through the CD disc **30** and rubber disc holder **34** of section 3-3 of FIG. 2 of the disc repair system kit **10**. Rubber disc holder **34** is shown adhesively mounted to the inside portion **29** of cover **24**. Spindle **32** is shown preferably mounted in the center of the rubber disc holder **34** and is approximately 9/16 inch in diameter. The spindle **32** has a smaller portion **33**, which is preferably about 1/4 inches in diameter, and is permanently adhesively inserted in a same-nominal-sized 1/4 inch hole in the center of cover **24**.

FIG. 4 illustrates a perspective view of the hand-held disc rotator **58**. The disc rotator **58** is preferably a battery-operated (and, in appropriate circumstances, other AC and DC power sources, as engineered by those with ordinary skill in this art) hand-held device (embodying herein wherein such hand-held power tool means comprises a powered rotary spindle). Illustrated is one (preferred) example. The

illustrated unit has 4 AA batteries **80** for power, and an on/off switch **82**. The device uses an electric motor to turn a spindle **76**, upon which a flat round disc **75** is connected (embodying herein wherein such hand-held power tool means comprises a powered rotary spindle: and a hand-held power tool means for powered rubbing of such abrader means on the operating surface; and a hand-held rotary power tool having a powered rotary spindle structured and arranged to removably hold one such spindle-rotatable abrasive product). These general types of devices are well-known in the art and will not be further described. The preferred revolutions per minute (RPM's) are between 600 RPM and 1200 RPM. Preferably, the disc rotator is a variable speed device. Alternate RPM's may be used; preferences will vary, depending on the abrasive grit of the sanding pad and the amount of time the abrasive is applied to the disc. Attached to the end of the flat round disc **75** is a hook fabric **78** for the purpose of attaching loop fabric-type material **86** (e.g., synthetic hook and loop materials used for removable attachment purposes; e.g., Velcro®) used for removably attaching the polishing pads **42** and **52** and buffing pads **62** and **66** to disc **75**. A foam pad with a linen backer **48** is illustrated as an example for the purpose of using a diamond abrasive, and is explained in detail below.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the application of another embodiment of the polishing pad **42** with an attached polishing disc **44**. Preferably, with reference to FIG. 6, polishing pad **42** is comprised of a dense foam **87** cut in a round cylindrical shape approximately 1-5/16 inches in diameter and 1/4 inch in height. Preferably, one flat 1-5/16 inch diameter portion has a thin fabric cover **84** (e.g., hydro-entangled 1.6 oz. polyester/rayon blend fabric, see FIG. 6) permanently glued (with any permanent adhesive) to it, and the other flat 1-5/16 inch diameter portion has a loop fabric-type material **86** (e.g., synthetic hook and loop materials used for removable attachment purposes; e.g., Velcro®) permanently attached to the foam. The loop fabric

86 is used to removably attach the polishing pad 42 to the hook fabric 78 on the flat round disc 75 of the disc rotator 58 (embodying herein a set of polishing means removably attachable to such rotary spindle for polishing the operating surface; and a set of polishing pads each structured and arranged to be removably attached to such rotary spindle). In a preferred embodiment, polishing disc 44 is comprised of a 1-5/16 inch diameter disc, which is paper thin in thickness, and has a removable adhesive 96 on one side and an abrasive 93 approximately 15 microns thick on the other side. Covering the adhesive side 96 is a release sheet cover paper 92 (e.g., common to those knowledgeable in the art, such as 70 pound calendar stock). The release sheet cover paper 92 is removed, as illustrated in FIG. 5, and the adhesive side of the polishing disc 44 is applied with hand pressure to the underside 90 of the polishing pad 42 (i.e., the side without the loop fabric material 86).

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a polishing pad 42 described above, without the polishing disc 44 attached. The description of FIG. 5 and FIG. 6 also applies to polishing pads 52 and 48.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a buffing pad 62. Buffing pad 62 is similar to buffing pad 66 and operates equally to buffing pad 66. Preferably, buffing pad 62 consists of a dense foam 94 cut in a round cylindrical shape approximately 1-5/16 inches in diameter and 3/4 inch in height. Preferably, one flat 1-5/16 inch diameter portion has a loop fabric material 86 permanently attached to the foam. The other 1-5/16 inch diameter portion remains uncovered foam. The foam is used as a buffing surface for an abrasive that is applied to the surface of the foam and will be further described in detail below. The loop fabric 86 is used to removably attach the buffing pad 62 to the hook fabric 78 on the flat round disc 75 of the disc rotator 58 (embodying herein a buffing pad structured and arranged to be removably attached to such rotary spindle).

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a polishing pad 42 and attached polishing disc 44 shown attached to a disc rotator 58. Preferably, the polishing pad 42 is attached to the disc rotator 58 utilizing the above described hook fabric 78 and loop fabric 86 attachment. As illustrated, the polishing pad 42 is attached with the loop fabric 86 connected to the hook fabric 78 on the flat round disc 75 of the disc rotator 58 in a relatively upward position, and the abrasive side, in a relatively downward position. (The buffing pad 62 attaches in a similar manner).

FIGS. 9 through 15 illustrate a preferred embodiment of the method of use/operation of the preferred disc repair kit system. Digitally recorded discs, known commonly as CD discs or DVD discs, may contain audio or video information. The digital information is currently interpolated or read by an optical reader that uses one or more laser beams or other light amplified beams to read the digital information; and such optical reading ability is the only intended limitation in using herein a specific term or embodiment like "CD disc". The current state of the art of manufacture of these CD discs is such that they are comprised of a round disc composed of a synthetic material (e.g., plastic), with a diameter of approximately 4-3/4 inches and an approximate thickness of 1/16 inches. The disc has a center aperture approximately 5/8 inches in diameter for receiving a centering spindle in a playback apparatus. Digitally recorded material extends on one side of the disc from about 3/4 inches from the center aperture outward to within about 1/4 inch of the peripheral end of the disc. A bearing area extends on the other side, in approximately the same dimensions, for bearing on the playback apparatus which spins the disc. The operation of the disc reader and playback apparatus is well-known by those skilled in the art and will not be further explained.

The side of the disc with digital data information is now further discussed. The digital information is contained on a relatively thin layer of metallic material covered by a protective layer of synthetic material, usually a plastic. A

laser within the playback apparatus reads the digital information through the plastic layer 27. If the plastic layer 27 becomes scratched or stained, the laser cannot accurately read the digital information. The present embodiment of the disc repair system, a consumer kit, is provided for the purpose of solving the above-described problem.

Referring again to FIGS. 9 through 15, use of the disc repair system kit 10 reconditions the plastic covering such that the laser can optically read the digital information on the disc 30 and play it back with a playback apparatus. In operation, as shown in FIG. 10, the disc repair system kit 10 user places the scratched disc 30 onto the rubber disc holder 34 with the digital data side (that is scratched) facing upwardly (embodying herein placing the optically-read disc in a stationary position on a portable holder provided by the consumer kit, with the scratched operating surface facing upwardly). The disc 30 is placed such that the center spindle 32 fits into the center aperture of the disc 30. A polishing pad 42 with an attached polishing disc 44 assembly is placed onto the flat round disc 75 of the disc rotator 58 as shown in FIG. 9. Preferably, polishing disk 44 is a 15 micron grit abrasive surface. The disc rotator 58 is turned such that the surface of the polishing disc 44 is facing upwardly. Preferably, one or more drops of polishing compound 100 are applied to the polishing disc 44. The disc rotator 58 is then turned such that the surface of the polishing disc 44 is over the area of the disc 30 which is scratched and to be repaired, as shown in FIG. 10. For purposes of identifying the scratched area to be repaired, the rubber disc holder 34 has four quadrant marks 31, which are placed perpendicular to each other through the center of the disc. These marks, as shown, divide the rubber disc holder 34 into four quadrants. These quadrants are illustrated in FIG. 10 as quadrant 101, quadrant 102, quadrant 103 and quadrant 104. Preferably, as disc rotator 58 is turned over such that the surface of the polishing disc

44 comes into contact with the disc 30, the disc rotator 58 is turned on.

Preferably, the disc rotator 58 rotates the polishing disc 44 at approximately 600-1200 revolutions per minute (RPM's). The disc rotator 58 is moved back and forth over the scratched area, preferably covering the entire quadrant area that encompasses the scratch. For example, FIG. 11 illustrates a scratch that is being repaired in the area of quadrant 102 and quadrant 103. It is important that there be enough polishing compound 100 used to adequately cover the area being repaired. It may be necessary to repeat the step illustrated in FIG. 9 and FIG. 10 and add more polishing compound 100. The polishing disc 44 should be kept wet during the polishing process. Typically and preferably, the initial polishing process lasts about one minute. The initial polishing process illustrated in FIGS. 9-11 is used to remove a portion of the thin plastic layer 27 covering the digital data, thereby also removing the scratch(es).

The second polishing process is as described with respect to FIGS. 9-10, but occurs with polishing pad 52 and polishing discs 54. Preferably, polishing disc 54 is a 9 micron grit abrasive surface. As described in the first polishing process, the polishing pad 52 with an attached polishing disc 54 assembly is placed onto the flat round disc 75 of the disc rotator 58. The disc rotator 58 is turned such that the surface of the polishing disc 54 is facing upwardly. Preferably, one or more drops of polishing compound 100 are applied to the polishing disc 54. The disc rotator 58 is then turned such that the surface of the polishing disc 54 is over the area of the disc 30 which is scratched and to be repaired. Once again, as the disc rotator 58 is turned over such that the surface of the polishing disc 54 comes into contact with the disc 30, the disc rotator 58 is turned on. Preferably, the disc rotator 58 rotates the polishing disc 54 at approximately 600-1200 revolutions per minute (RPM's). The disc rotator 58 is moved back and forth over the scratched area, preferably covering

the entire quadrant area that encompasses the scratch (this arrangement embodying herein using a hand-held rotating power tool having a rotary spindle, provided by such consumer kit, rubbing in a polishing order a selection of such abrasion products on such scratched operating surface). Preferably, the second polishing process lasts about one minute. Similar to the initial polishing, it may be necessary to add more polishing compound 100 as the polishing disc 44 should be kept wet during the polishing process. Since the abrasive grit of the polishing disc 54 is less abrasive than polishing disc 44, the plastic layer 27 will continue to be smoothed. Preferably, this smoothing process allows the laser to read the digital data as described previously.

The next step in the scratched disc repairing process is buffing. As illustrated in FIGS. 12-14, the buffing process is quite similar to the polishing process. Preferably, a buffing pad 62 (or buffing pad 66, being equal) is placed onto the flat round disc 75 of the disc rotator 58 using the hook 78 and loop fabric 86 attachment. As illustrated in FIG. 12, several drops of buffing compound 109 are placed onto the buffing pad 62. The disc rotator 58 is then turned over such that the surface of the buffing pad 62 is in the quadrant over the area of the disc 30 which is scratched and has been polished. As stated, preferably, as shown in FIG. 13, the disc rotator 58 is then turned over such that the surface of the buffing pad 62 comes into contact with the disc 30, and the disc rotator 58 is turned on. Preferably, the disc rotator 58 rotates the buffing pad 62 at approximately 6-800 revolutions per minute (RPM's). The disc rotator 58 is moved back and forth over the scratched area, as shown in FIG. 13, preferably covering the entire quadrant area(s) that encompasses the scratch (e.g., quadrants 102 and 103, as illustrated in FIG. 14). The buffing process is preferably accomplished similarly to the initial polishing process wherein it may be necessary to add more buffing compound 109 as the buffing pad 62 should be kept moist during the buffing process. Since the abrasive grit of the

buffing compound 109 in combination with the buffing pad 62 is less abrasive than polishing disc 54, the plastic layer 27 will continue to be smoothed. The buffing compound 109 is preferably applied until the disc appears shiny. The buffing compound 109 is a light abrasive and may also be applied to the entire disc to remove small scratches that would not necessitate the use of the heavier abrasive in the polishing compound 100.

Upon completing the buffing step, the user removes a disc wiping cloth 72 from the disc-wipe package 70. The disc wiping cloth 72 is used to remove the buffing compound 109 and swirl marks as shown in FIG. 15 (this arrangement embodying herein cleaning means for cleaning the operating surface; and a set of wipes each structured and arranged to clean the operating surface; and also a cleaning disc having a lesser grit than the polishing compound). In addition, disc wiping cloth 72 is used in conjunction with water or a disc-wiping solution comprised of a lightweight clear plastic polish (familiar to those skilled in the art) to lightly fill in any remaining buffing or swirl marks and add an additional coating of clear plastic polish to the plastic layer 27 of the disc 30 (embodying herein using cleaning elements provided by such consumer kit, cleaning such scratched operating surface), further enhancing the readability of the digital material through the plastic layer 27.

FIGS. 16 and 17 illustrate yet another embodiment of a rubber disc holder 110. Preferably, rubber disc holder 110 may be used on a work table top, or if the rubber disc holder 34 (see FIG. 2) is not used. Rubber disc holder 110 is preferably comprised of metal (but may be comprised of other suitable materials, such as plastic), and it performs a similar function to rubber disc holder 34. Instead of four quadrant marks 31, which are placed perpendicular to each other through the center of the disc, rubber disc holder 110 preferably has four u-shaped notches 112 placed perpendicular to each other. The u-shaped notches 112 divide the rubber disc holder 110 into four equal quadrants and assist the user

in identifying the scratched area to be repaired. Preferably, rubber disc holder **110** is about 4-3/4 inches square with a rubber disk **114** about 4-3/4 inches in diameter centered in the square. Preferably, rubber disc holder **110** is sized such that it is the same size as a standard compact disc. Preferably, in the center of rubber disc holder **110** is a round spindle **116** approximately 9/16 of an inch in diameter which penetrates both the rubber disk **114** and the rubber disc holder **110**. The spindle **116** has a smaller portion **118** which is inserted through a 1/4 inch hole in the bottom of rubber disc holder **110**. The smaller portion **118** is preferably about 1/4 inch in diameter and is adhesively inserted in a same sized 1/4 inch hole in the center of rubber disc holder **110**. Both the spindle **118** and rubber disk **114** are preferably permanently adhered to the rubber disc holder **110**. One preferred adhesive method is use of a double-sided adhesive tape; however, other suitable permanent adhesives would suffice.

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of an applicator **120** for diamond abrasives. In this embodiment, a series of varying grit diamond abrasive compounds are used to remove scratches. In operation, this embodiment is for an upgraded disc repair system kit **10** preferably structured by adding all described elements needed for abrading with diamond grit. Preferably, the diamond abrasives are a series of varying grit diamond abrasive compounds which are used to remove the scratches on the discs in lieu of and/or in addition to the above-described polishing and buffing compounds and discs. The diamond abrasive kit will be similar to the above-described embodiment of the disc repair system kit **10** with the differences as described below.

Preferably, for deep scratches, diamond abrasive (e.g., those available from Engis Corp., 105 W. Hintz Rd., Wheeling, IL 60090) is provided in the kit at the following grits: 60 microns, 30 microns, 15 microns and 6 microns (embodying herein wherein such set of abrasive products further

comprises a series of diamond grit abrasives ranging from about 60 micron diamond grit to about 6 micron diamond grit). The diamond abrasive is used on the designated pad, which is a foam pad with a linen backer 48 (e.g., medium density closed cell foam, such as that available from Foamex, 4011 West Clarendon, Phoenix, AZ 85019, with attached 40 pound fabric linen available from a fabric store, such as H&R Sales, 1118 N 35th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009). Preferably, at least four of the foam pads with a linen backer 48 would be put in the deluxe disc repair system kit 10 in addition to the polishing pads 52 and polishing discs 44. Preferably, each of the diamond abrasives is applied on a separate and clean foam pad with a linen backer 48 for a period of about two minutes on each application. Preferably, each of the diamond abrasives is colored in a different color, so as to be distinguished from one another. Preferably, the disc repair system kit 10 user places the scratched disc 30 onto the rubber disc holder 34 with the digital data side that is scratched facing upwardly. Then the preferred steps may be followed with help of FIGS. 9-15. The disc 30 is placed such that the center spindle 32 fits into the center aperture of the disc 30. A foam pad with a linen backer 48 is placed onto the flat round disc 75 of the disc rotator 58. The disc rotator 58 is turned over such that the surface of the foam pad with a linen backer 48 is facing upwardly. Preferably, one or more drops of 60 micron abrasive is applied to the surface of the foam pad with a linen backer 48. The disc rotator 58 is then turned such that the surface of the foam pad with a linen backer 48 is over the area of the disc 30 which is scratched and to be repaired. As stated previously, for purposes of identifying the scratched area to be repaired, the rubber disc holder 34 has four quadrant marks 31 which are placed perpendicular to each other through the center of the disc. These marks divide the rubber disc holder 34 into four quadrants. These quadrants are illustrated in FIG. 10 as quadrant 101, quadrant 102, quadrant 103 and quadrant 104. Preferably, as disc rotator

58 is turned over such that the surface of the foam pad with a linen backer 48 and 60 micron diamond adhesive comes into contact with the disc 30, the disc rotator 58 is turned on.

Preferably, the disc rotator 58 rotates the foam pad with a linen backer 48 at approximately 600-1200 revolutions per minute (RPM's). The disc rotator 58 is moved back and forth over the scratched area; preferably, covering the entire quadrant area that encompasses the scratch. For example, FIG. 11 illustrates a scratch that is being repaired in the area of quadrant 102 and quadrant 103. It is important that there be enough 60 micron diamond abrasive to adequately cover the area being repaired. It may be necessary to repeat the step illustrated in FIG. 9 and add more 60 micron diamond abrasive. Pad 48 should be kept wet with diamond abrasive during the entire polishing process. Preferably, the initial polishing process lasts about two minutes. The initial diamond abrasive polishing process is similar to that illustrated in FIGS. 9-11 with the exception of the use of the diamond abrasive in lieu of the polishing compound and polishing discs. Preferably, the initial polishing process is used to remove a portion of the thin plastic layer 27 covering the digital data, thereby also removing the scratch(es).

The second polishing process occurs with a 30 micron diamond abrasive and a second foam pad with a linen backer 48. As described in the first polishing process, a foam pad with a linen backer 48 is placed onto the flat round disc 75 of the disc rotator 58. The disc rotator 58 is turned over such that the surface of the foam pad with a linen backer 48 is facing upwardly. Preferably, one or more drops of 30 micron abrasive is applied to the surface of the foam pad with a linen backer 48. The disc rotator 58 is then turned such that the surface of the foam pad with a linen backer 48 is over the area of the disc 30 which is scratched and to be repaired. Preferably, the disc rotator 58 rotates the polishing disc 54 at approximately 600-1200 revolutions per minute (RPM's). The disc rotator 58 is moved back and forth

over the scratched area; preferably, covering the entire quadrant area that encompasses the scratch. Preferably, the second polishing process lasts about two minutes. Similar to the initial polishing, it may be necessary to add more 30 micron abrasive polishing compound as the backer 48 should be kept wet during the polishing process. Since the abrasive grit of the 30 micron abrasive is less abrasive than the 60 micron abrasive, the plastic layer 27 will continue to be smoothed. Preferably, this smoothing process eventually allows the laser to read the digital data, as described previously.

Preferably, the above steps are repeated two more times using 15 micron diamond abrasive and 9 micron diamond abrasive. Since the abrasive grit of the abrasives continues to be less and less abrasive, the plastic layer 27 will continue to be smoothed.

Upon completing the abrasive polishing step, the next step in the scratched disc repairing process is buffing. As discussed previously and illustrated in FIGS. 12-14, the buffing process is as follows: Preferably, a buffing pad 62 (or buffing pad 66, being equal) is placed onto the flat round disc 75 of the disc rotator 58 using the hook 78 and loop fabric 86 attachment. As illustrated in FIG. 12, several drops of buffing compound 109 are placed onto the buffing pad 62. The disc rotator 58 is then turned such that the surface of the buffing pad 62 is in the quadrant over the area of the disc 30 which is scratched and has been polished. Preferably, the disc rotator 58 is then turned over such that the surface of the buffing pad 62 comes into contact with the disc 30, and the disc rotator 58 is turned on. Preferably, the disc rotator 58 rotates the buffing pad 62 at approximately 6-800 revolutions per minute (RPM's). The disc rotator 58 is moved back and forth over the scratched area; preferably, covering the entire quadrant area that encompasses the scratch (e.g., quadrant 102 and 103 as illustrated in FIG. 14). The buffing process is preferably accomplished similarly to the initial polishing process

wherein it may be necessary to add more buffing compound 109 as the buffing pad 62 should be kept moist during the buffing process. Since the abrasive grit of the buffing compound 109 in combination with the buffing pad 62 is less abrasive than the polishing grits, the plastic layer 27 will continue to be smoothed. The buffing compound 109 is preferably applied until the disc appears shiny. The buffing compound 109 is a light abrasive and may also be applied to the entire disc to remove small scratches that would not necessitate the use of the heavier abrasive in the polishing compound 100.

Upon completing the buffing process, the user removes a disc wiping cloth 72 from the disc-wipe package 70. The disc wiping cloth 72 is used to remove the remaining 9 micron abrasive and any left-over swirl marks (as shown in FIG. 15). In addition, disc wiping cloth 72 is used in conjunction with a disc-wiping solution comprised of a lightweight clear plastic polish, which is a mixture of distilled water, silicone additive, and alcohol (familiar to those skilled in the art) to lightly fill in any remaining buffing or swirl marks and add an additional coating of clear plastic polish (silicone) to the plastic layer 27 of the disc 30, further enhancing the readability of the digital material through the plastic layer 27.

Although applicant has described applicant's preferred embodiments of this invention, it will be understood that the broadest scope of this invention includes such modifications as diverse shapes, sizes and materials. Such scope is limited only by the below claims as read in connection with the above specification. Further, many other advantages of applicant's invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the above descriptions and the below claims.

What is claimed is:

- 1) A consumer kit for reconditioning a scratched operating surface of an optically-read disc, comprising, in combination:
 - a) a holding means for holding the disc in a substantially stationary position with the operating surface exposed and facing upwardly;
 - b) an abrader means for abrading the operating surface;
 - c) a hand-held power tool means for powered rubbing of said abrader means on the operating surface; and
 - d) a cleaning means for cleaning the operating surface.
- 2) The consumer kit according to Claim 1, further comprising a container means for containing said consumer kit within a box having a lid.
- 3) The consumer kit according to Claim 2, wherein said lid comprises said holding means.
- 4) A consumer kit according to Claim 2, wherein said box comprises spacer means for orderly arranging of elements of said consumer kit.
- 5) A consumer kit according to Claim 1, wherein said abrader means comprises a series of abrasives for abrading the operating surface in a user-controlled manner.
- 6) A consumer kit according to Claim 5, wherein said hand-held power tool means comprises a powered rotary spindle.
- 7) A consumer kit according to Claim 6, further comprising a set of polishing means removably attachable to said rotary spindle for polishing the operating surface.
- 8) A consumer kit according to Claim 7, wherein abrader means further comprises said set of polishing means.

- 9) A consumer kit for reconditioning a scratched operating surface of an optically-read disc, comprising, in combination:
 - a) an optically-read-disc holder structured and arranged to hold the optically-read disc in a substantially stationary position with the operating surface exposed and facing upwardly;
 - b) a set of abrasive products structured and arranged to abrade the operating surface in an ordered manner when rotatably rubbed on the operating surface;
 - c) a hand-held rotary power tool having a powered rotary spindle structured and arranged to removably hold one said spindle-rotatable abrasive product; and
 - d) a set of wipes each structured and arranged to clean the operating surface.
- 10) The consumer kit according to Claim 9, further comprising a box, having a lid, structured and arranged to contain said consumer kit.
- 11) The consumer kit according to Claim 10, wherein said lid comprises said optically-read-disc holder.
- 12) The consumer kit according to Claim 10, wherein said box comprises a spacer structured and arranged to assist orderly arranging of elements of said consumer kit.
- 13) The consumer kit according to Claim 12, wherein said set of abrasive products comprises:
 - a) a set of polishing pads each structured and arranged to be removably attached to said rotary spindle; and
 - b) a polishing compound.
- 14) The consumer kit according to Claim 13, wherein said set of abrasive products further comprises:
 - a) a buffing pad structured and arranged to be removably attached to said rotary spindle; and
 - b) a buffing compound.

- 15) The consumer kit according to Claim 13, wherein said set of abrasive products further comprises:
 - a) a 15 grit micron abrading disc;
 - b) a 9 grit micron abrading disc;
 - c) a 3 grit micron abrading disc;
 - d) a polishing compound less than 9 grit; and
 - e) a cleaning disc having a lesser grit than the polishing compound.
- 16) The consumer kit according to Claim 13, wherein said set of abrasive products further comprises a series of diamond grit abrasives ranging from about 60 micron diamond grit to about 6 micron diamond grit.
- 17) A method for using consumer-kit elements to recondition a scratched operating surface of an optically-read disc, comprising, in combination, the steps of:
 - a) placing the optically-read disc in a stationary position on a portable holder provided by the consumer kit, with the scratched operating surface facing upwardly;
 - b) providing, by said consumer kit, a set of abrasion products structured and arranged to remove material from said scratched operating surface when rubbed on said scratched operating surface;
 - c) using a hand-held rotating power tool having a rotary spindle, provided by said consumer kit, rubbing in a polishing order a selection of said abrasion products on said scratched operating surface; and
 - d) cleaning said scratched operating surface.
- 18) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said set of abrasive products comprises:
 - a) a set of polishing pads each structured and arranged to be removably attached to said rotary spindle; and
 - b) a polishing compound.

- 19) The method according to Claim 18, wherein said set of abrasive products further comprises:
 - a) a buffing pad structured and arranged to be removably attached to said rotary spindle; and
 - b) a buffing compound.
- 20) The method according to Claim 18, wherein said set of abrasive products further comprises:
 - a) a 15 grit micron abrading disc;
 - b) a 9 grit micron abrading disc;
 - c) a 3 grit micron abrading disc;
 - d) a polishing compound less than 9 grit; and
 - e) a cleaning disc having a lesser grit than the polishing compound.
- 21) The method according to Claim 18, wherein said set of abrasive products further comprises a series of diamond grit abrasives ranging from about 60 micron diamond grit to about 6 micron diamond grit.
- 22) A system for reconditioning at least one scratched operating surface of at least one optically-read disc, comprising, in combination:
 - a) at least one holding means for holding the at least one optically-read disc;
 - b) at least one abrasive means for abrading the at least one scratched operating surface of the at least one optically-read disc; and
 - c) wherein said at least one abrasive means comprises at least one diamond abrasive of at least one grit size.

- 23) A system for reconditioning at least one scratched operating surface of at least one optically-read disc, comprising, in combination:
- a) at least one holder structured and arranged to hold the at least one optically-read disc;
 - b) at least one abrader structured and arranged to abrade the at least one scratched operating surface of the at least one optically-read disc; and
 - c) wherein said at least one abrader comprises at least one diamond abrasive of at least one grit size.
- 24) A system for reconditioning at least one scratched operating surface of at least one optically-read disc, comprising in combination:
- a) an optically-read-disc holder structured and arranged to hold the at least one optically-read disc in a desired position; and
 - b) a set of diamond abrasive products structured and arranged to abrade the at least one scratched operating surface when rubbed on the at least one scratched operating surface.
- 25) The system according to Claim 24, wherein said set of diamond abrasive products comprises abrasive particles at least 6 microns in size.
- 26) The system according to Claim 24, wherein said set of diamond abrasive products comprises a progressively finer abrasive particle series in a range between about 60 microns to about 6 microns.
- 27) The system according to Claim 24, wherein said set of diamond abrasive products further comprises:
- a) 60 micron diamond grit;
 - b) 30 micron diamond grit;
 - c) 15 micron diamond grit; and
 - d) 6 micron diamond grit.

- 28) A method for reconditioning at least one scratched operating surface of at least one optically-read disc, comprising, in combination, the steps of:
- a) placing the at least one optically-read disc on the at least one holding means, with the scratched operating surface exposed; and
 - b) providing a set of diamond abrasive products structured and arranged to remove material from said scratched operating surface when rubbed on said scratched operating surface.
- 29) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said set of diamond abrasive products comprises abrasive particles at least 6 microns in size.
- 30) The system according to Claim 28, wherein said set of diamond abrasive products comprises a progressively finer abrasive particle series in a range between about 60 microns to about 6 microns.
- 31) The system according to Claim 28, wherein said set of diamond abrasive products further comprises:
- a) 60 micron diamond grit;
 - b) 30 micron diamond grit;
 - c) 15 micron diamond grit; and
 - d) 6 micron diamond grit.

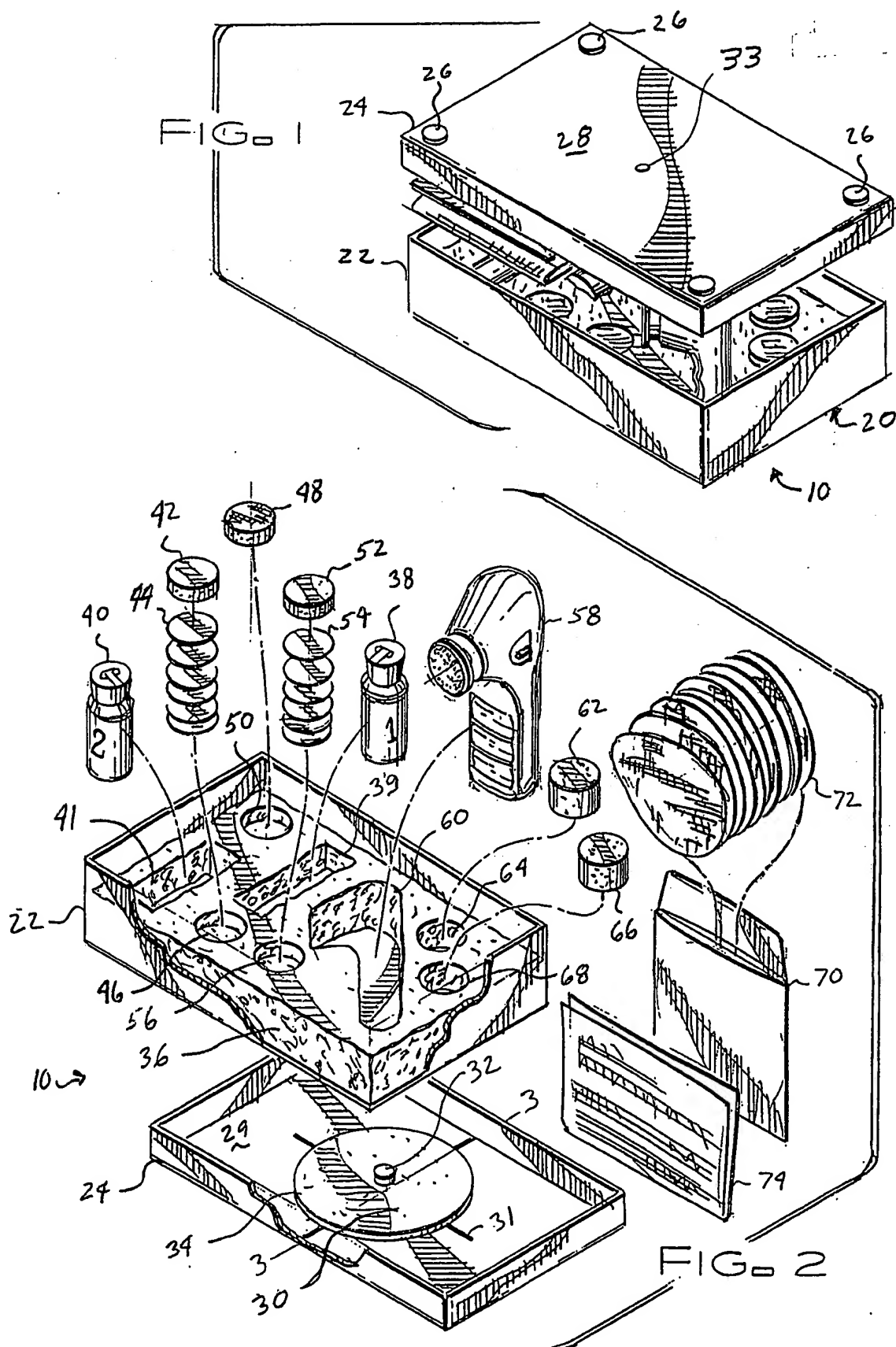


FIG. 3

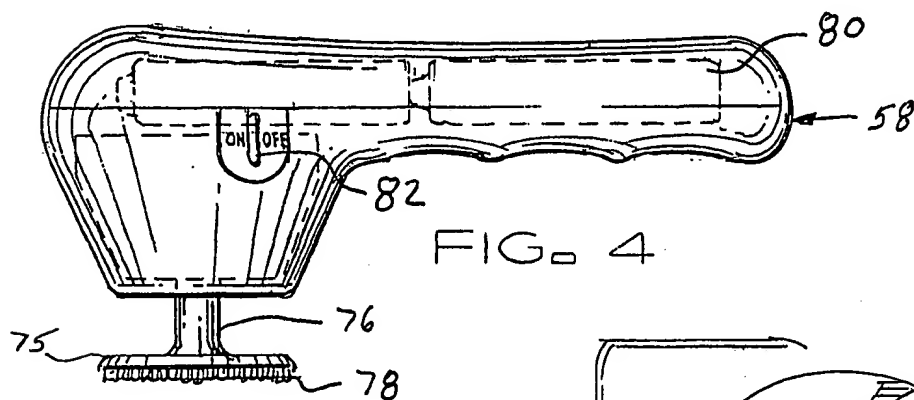
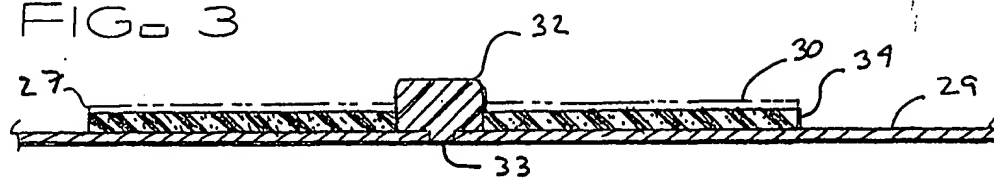


FIG. 4

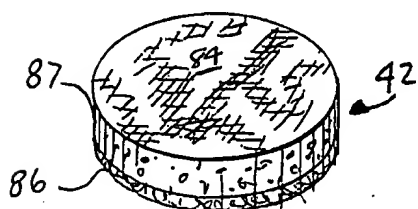


FIG. 6

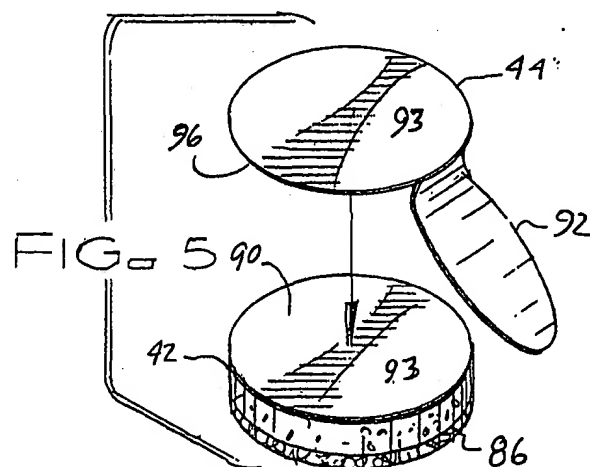


FIG. 5

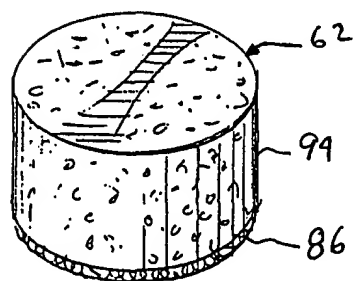


FIG. 7

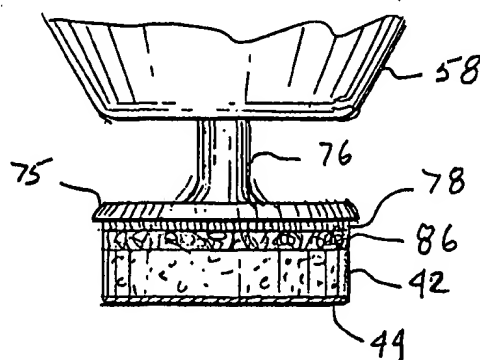
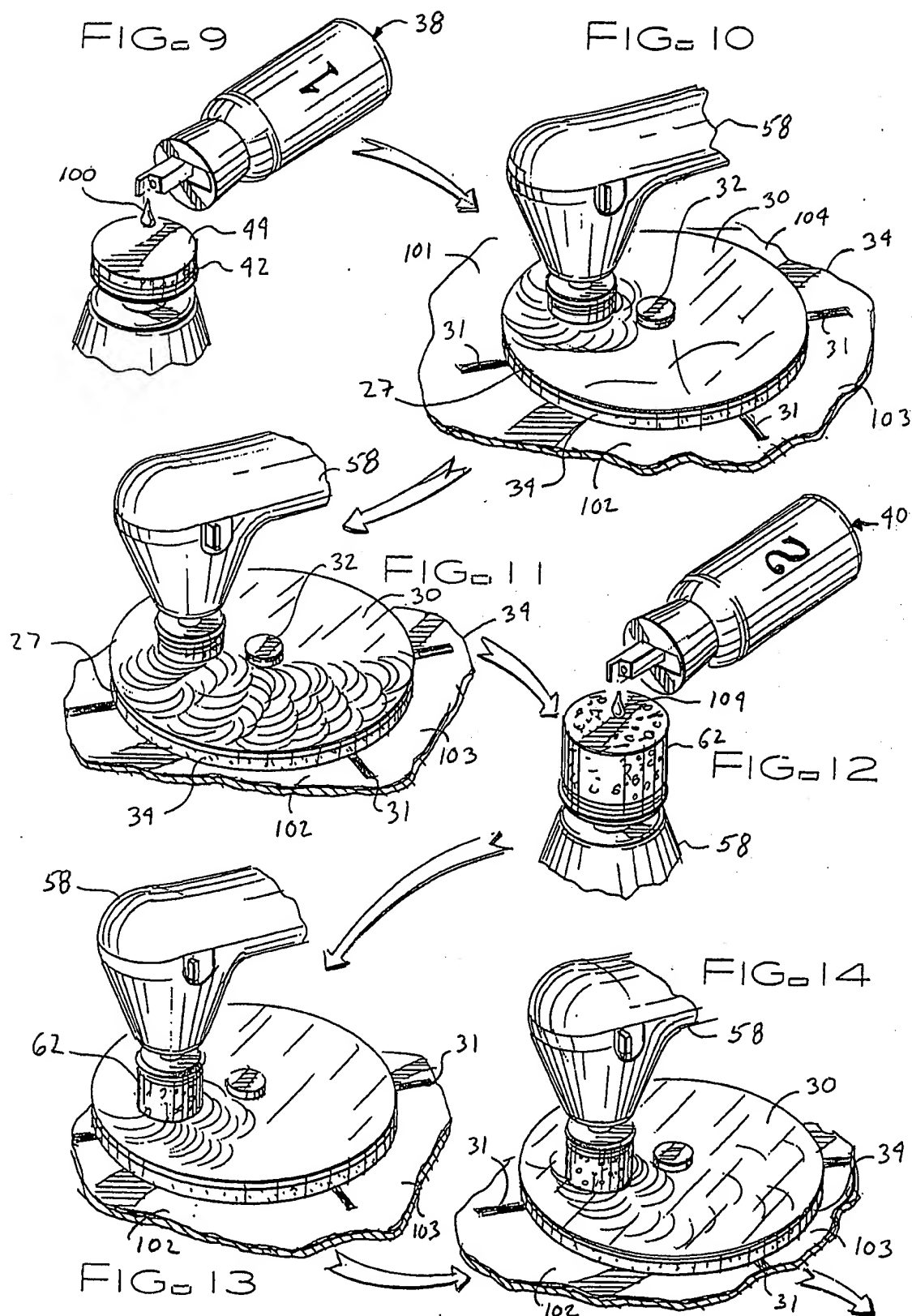


FIG. 8



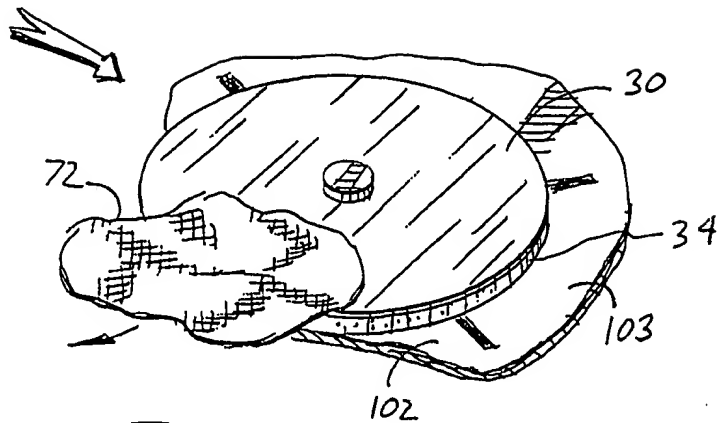


FIG. 15

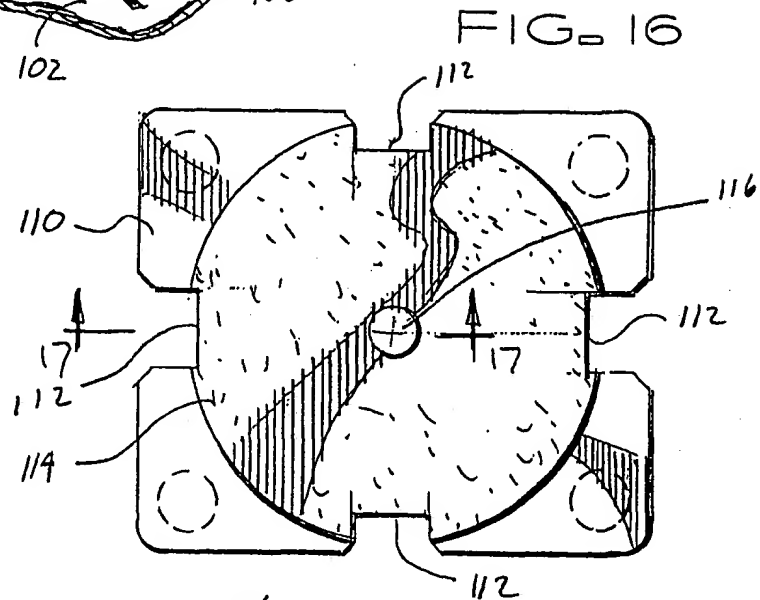


FIG. 16

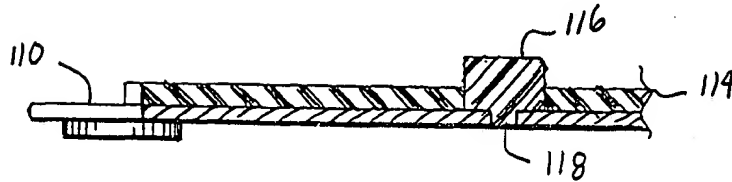


FIG. 17

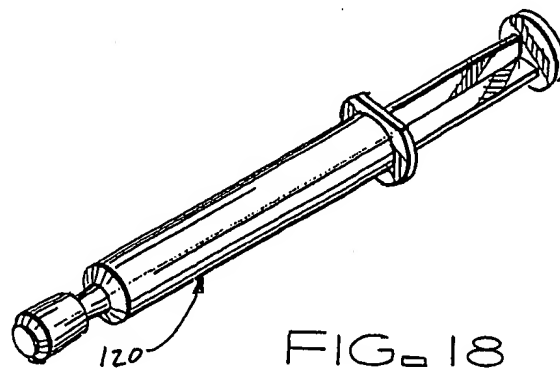


FIG. 18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US02/01088

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :B24B 1/00

US CL :451/57

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 451/57, 59, 63

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Text search: compact discs, cleaning, abrasive

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,099,618 A (SCHMID) 31 March 1992, SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1,5-9,17,22-24,28
X	US 5,964,650 A (BORN et al) 12 October 1999, SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1,5-9,17,22-24,28
A	US 5,571,041 A (LEIKAM) 05 November 1996	
A, P	US 6,312,320 B2 (SATO et al) 06 November 2001	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

• Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 MAY 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

05 JUN 2002

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